

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and add new Claims 17 to 28 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) An image communication apparatus comprising:
storage means for storing IP addresses and identifiers of destination apparatuses in correspondence with telephone numbers of the destination apparatuses;
input acceptance means for accepting input of a telephone number of a destination apparatus;

first determination means for determining whether there is an IP address to be stored in the storage means in correspondence with the accepted telephone number;

session request transmission means for, when the first determination means determines that an IP address has been stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number, transmitting a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start image communication using the IP address;

session request transmission means for, when the first determination means determines that no IP address has been stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number, transmitting a session request to a first server;

address reception means for receiving an IP address corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server; and

storage control means for storing the received IP address in the storage means in correspondence with the accepted telephone number.

18. (New) The image communication apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising:

identifier request means for requesting the destination apparatus to transmit an identifier after the session is established with the destination apparatus;

identifier reception means for receiving the identifier transmitted from the destination apparatus in response to the request for the identifier;

second determination means for determining whether an identifier that is the same as the received identifier has been stored in the storage means in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus; and

suppression means for, when the second determination means determines that the identifier that is the same as the received identifier has not been stored in the storage means in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus, suppressing image communication to the destination apparatus.

19. (New) The image communication apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein when the identifier reception means does not receive an identifier from the destination apparatus in response to the request for the identifier after an elapse of a predetermined period of time, the suppression means suppresses image communication to the destination apparatus.

20. (New) An image communication apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing IP addresses and identifiers of destination apparatuses in correspondence with telephone numbers of the destination apparatuses;

input acceptance means for accepting input of a telephone number of a destination apparatus;

search means for searching the storage means for an identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number;

address request means for, when it is found as a result of search that the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number has been stored, requesting a second server to transmit an IP address corresponding to the identifier;

session request transmission means for transmitting a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start image communication using the IP address obtained from the second server in response to the address request;

session request transmission means for, when it is found as a result of search that the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number has not been stored, transmitting a session request to a first server;

identifier reception means for receiving the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server; and

storage control means for storing the received identifier in the storage means.

21. (New) The image communication apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the received identifier is contained in a response transmitted from the destination

apparatus in response to the session request, and the response is transmitted from the destination apparatus to the image communication apparatus via the first server.

22. (New) A method of controlling an image communication apparatus, the method comprising:

a step of storing IP addresses and identifiers of destination apparatuses in correspondence with telephone numbers of the destination apparatuses;

an input acceptance step of accepting input of a telephone number of a destination apparatus;

a first determination step of determining whether an IP address corresponding to the accepted telephone number has been stored in the storage step;

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined in the first determination step that the IP address corresponding to the accepted telephone number has been stored, a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start image communication using the IP address;

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined in the first determination step that the IP address corresponding to the accepted telephone number has not been stored, a session request to a first server; and

an address reception step of receiving the IP address corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server, wherein in the storage step, the received IP address is stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number.

23. (New) The method of controlling an image communication apparatus according to Claim 22, further comprising:

an identifier request step of requesting the destination apparatus to transmit an identifier after the session is established with the destination apparatus;

an identifier reception step of receiving the identifier transmitted from the destination apparatus in response to the request for the identifier;

a second determination step of determining whether an identifier that is the same as the received identifier has been stored in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus in the storage step; and

a suppression step of suppressing, when it is determined in the second determination step that the identifier that is the same as the received identifier has not been stored in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus, image communication to the destination apparatus.

24. (New) The method of controlling an image communication apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein when an identifier is not received in the identifier reception step from the destination apparatus in response to the request for the identifier after an elapse of a predetermined period of time, the suppression step suppresses image communication to the destination apparatus.

25. (New) A method of controlling an image communication apparatus, the method comprising:

a storage step of storing IP addresses and identifiers of destination apparatuses in correspondence with telephone numbers of the destination apparatuses;

an input acceptance step of accepting input of a telephone number of a destination apparatus;

a determination step of determining whether an identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number has been stored in the storage step; an address request step of requesting, when it is determined that the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number has been stored, a second server to transmit an IP address corresponding to the identifier; a session request transmission step of transmitting a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start image communication using the IP address obtained from the second server in response to the address request;

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined that the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number has not been stored, a session request to a first server; and

an identifier reception step of receiving the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server, wherein in the storage step, the received identifier is stored.

26. (New) The method of controlling an image communication apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the received identifier is contained in a response transmitted from the destination apparatus in response to the session request, and the response is transmitted from the destination apparatus to the image communication apparatus via the first server.

27. (New) A control program, stored on a computer readable medium, the program for an image communication apparatus to allow a computer to execute the method

of controlling an image communication apparatus according to any one of Claims 22 through 26.

28. (New) A computer readable storage medium, on which is stored a control program of an image communication apparatus, the program for allowing a computer to execute the method of controlling an image communication apparatus according to any one of Claims 22 to 26.